

(c) *Grazing.*

Grazing receipts.

111. The revenue from grazing dues in each division for the year 1893-94 and 1894-95 is compared in the following table :—

Division.			1893-94.	1894-95.
			Rs.	Rs.
Sukkur	...	...	15,681	17,963
Naushahro	...	...	8,867	8,354
Hyderabad	...	...	12,194	10,889
Jerruck	...	...	11,599	11,375
Total			48,341	48,581

112. The increase of Rs. 2,282 in the Sukkur Division is the result of the untiring efforts of Mr. Dalal, the Divisional Forest Officer. The collections in the other three would have shown similar improvement had it not been that the time of the officers in charge was fully taken up in arranging for the timber and fuel-supply under the departmental system.

(d) *Other Minor Produce.*

Realizations from farms.

113. The realizations by sale of farms for removal of minor produce and the right to fish in forest waters are given below for two years :—

Division.			Babul pods.		Lac.		Munj and Sar grass, &c.		Fishery.	
			1893-94.	1894-95.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1893-94.	1894-95.
Sukkur	...	...	135	554	...	...	818	819	1,711	1,567
Naushahro...	...	...	1,109	572	...	...	919	752	1,392	1,449
Hyderabad	...	...	11,250	8,760	5,424	8,100	200	337	666	1,026
Jerruck	...	...	2,913	2,135	253	300	...	...	558	192
Total			15,407	12,021	5,677	8,400	1,937	1,908	4,327	4,234

BABUL PODS.—The crop was not plentiful in the two central divisions. The increase in Sukkur is due to a part of the revenue belonging to the previous year having been adjusted in 1894-95. The farm fetched an average price in Jerruck, but a sum of Rs. 900 was not recovered before the close of the year under report.

LAC.—A couple of years ago, the lac trade was in the hands of two or three merchants, but the combination was broken by an outsider who, finding there was money to be made in it, entered the competition, and since then the sales have continued to improve.

FISHERY.—Very many more depressions having been filled owing to the abnormal flood of the year, there was a larger area to work in resulting in an increase of revenue.

(e) Cultivation.

Area under cereal cultivation and its assessment.

114. The area under cereal crops and the amount realized by assessment in each division are given in the following statement:—

Division.	AREA UNDER CULTIVATION.				AMOUNT REALIZED BY ASSESSMENT.			
	Kharif.		Rabi.		Kharif.		Rabi.	
	1893-94.	1894-95.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1893-94.	1894-95.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Sukkur	513	393	1,953	2,478	1,596	980	8,004	9,074
Naushahro... ..	453	154	2,290	2,054	1,305	496	7,178	6,235
Hyderabad	105	70	1,022	200	166	243	651	871
Jerruck	219	72	59	61	672	100	150	128
Total	1,290	689	5,324	4,793	3,739	1,819	15,983	16,308

115. It will be seen that the area under cultivation has been greatly reduced in accordance with the orders issued by the Commissioner in Sind. The figures would have been still lower had it not been for the fact that 716 acres in the Thul Reserves, the disforestation of which had been agreed upon, were let out for cultivation during the year under report.

116. A great deal of misapprehension exists outside the department as to the use it makes of the power to grant land for cultivation within forest limits, so much so that even in high quarters the continuance of the practice, which is of long standing, is not viewed with favour. Unfortunately, this misconception is due to the fact that for some years past persons who had no interest whatever in the cultivation of the soil were able to secure land in the forests, and whenever claims were made to acquire new accretions thrown up by the river, they were, in view of the impression that had gained ground that the department would not make any legitimate use of it, resisted, and it was with the greatest trouble that such lands ultimately became Reserved Forests. It need not be said that this abuse of the practice has been put an end to, and grants are now confined to zamindars and *bonâ fide* tillers of the soil living in the vicinity of the forests, who render valuable and material assistance to the Forest Department in cultural operations, suppressing fires, clearing boundary-paths and compartment lines, erecting and repairing boundary-marks, providing labour for other works of improvement, &c. Another reform introduced in this connection is that, in forests which receive a copious supply of water and which are capable of being naturally reproduced, no cereal crops are to be raised on any pretence whatever, and that only when it is impracticable to reclothe the denuded areas is the aid of the cultivator to be sought in order that expenditure on ploughing or working up the soil, irrigating the area, if it does not come within the direct influence of the floods, &c., may be reduced to a minimum. The case is different on new formations or *katchus*. Until the deposits of successive seasons raise them to a sufficiently high level to enable a forest of valuable species to establish itself, the cultivation of the soil is a work of improvement, as it prevents the soil from deteriorating and helps in suppressing the dense rank growth which invades such lands almost as soon as they are thrown up.

III.—Free grants of Forest Produce.

Free grants.

117. The following statement shows the value of the free grants of timber made during the last two years:—